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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/885,698	06/30/1997	SCOTT B. GORDON	1647/47358	7722

* 7590 04/12/2002

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, STEVEN H D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2665

DATE MAILED: 04/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/885,698

Applicant(s)

Gordon

Examiner

Steven Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 28, 2002

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-10, and 12-23 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-10, and 12-23 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 4-10 and 12-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hortensius (USP 6173044) in view of Anderson (USP 6064673).

As claims 1, 4-10 and 12-23, Hortensius discloses an apparatus which includes a remote system (Fig 3c, Ref 250) including a converter (Fig 3c, Ref 312 has a converter coupling to a modem for converting telephone transmission signal into audio signal "read on audio output signal" for transmission to a central office from a computer having a modem and implicitly providing matching impedance) for receiving telephone transmission signal and providing an audio output signal. However, Hortensius does not disclose an interface machine for receiving an audio signal and providing a network audio signal for transmitting via WAN by using a first sound mechanism and local system having second sound mechanism for processing received a network audio signal into a continuous audio signal. In the same field of endeavor, Anderson discloses (Fig 1-3 and col. 1, lines 55 to col. 7, lines 38) an interface machine (Fig 1 is a computer has an analog line interface codec "Ref 16" for converting a transmission signal into the audio signals then generating packets having the digitized audio signal by using a sound mechanism for

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transmitting via WAN 104 to another computer, which have an address, has a sound mechanism for processing the network audio packet; See col. 5, lines 9-45) for processing a received telephone signal into a network audio signal for transmitting via WAN (Fig 1, Ref 32b) to a local system (Col 5, lines 5-8, a computer implicitly has an WAN address) which has an WAN address is a multimedia computer with a sound processing software for converting a network audio signal into a continuous audio signal) having second sound mechanism for processing received network audio signal into a continuous audio signal and an automated attendant system (Fig 1, performing automated attendant management, see col. 4, lines 36-48) for gathering the information (See col 5, lines 46-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to integrate a gateway for processing a telephone signal into a network audio signal for transmitting via WAN as disclosed by Anderson's telecommunication system into Hortensius's telecommunication system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to reduce the cost of long distance between the users. Even without, Anderson's teaching one of ordinary skill in the art would have known how to converting a telephone signal into a network audio signal because this method is well known in the art and public uses such as vocaltec software for using with a sound card.

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Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-9 and 12-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Page 5 of the response, the applicant states that Anderson converts entired telephone transmission signal into an audio signal. In reply, Anderson discloses a method of receiving a telephone transmission signal from central office wherein the gateway converts the voice signal into audio signals for generating the audio packet for transmission into WAN (See col 5, lines 26-45).

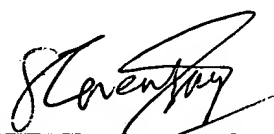
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-8848. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu, can be reached on (703) 308-6602.

The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.


STEVEN H. D. NGUYEN
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April 7, 2002